

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DPC 69

TRANSCRIPT OF PRESS, RADIO AND TELEVISION NEWS BRIEFING  
MONDAY, APRIL 12, 1976, 12:50 P.M.

(ON THE RECORD UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)

MR. TRATTNER: Some of you have asked about coverage of the Secretary's appearance tomorrow at the luncheon of the American Society of Newspaper Editors at the Shoreham Hotel, so I want to tell you that his appearance there is open to coverage. If you would like, I could give you a brief schedule of the events.

He is expected to make brief remarks ON THE RECORD at about 1:25 p.m., and that will be followed about fifteen minutes later by questions from a four-man panel which will go about half an hour. That will be followed by questions from the floor.

I would like to read into the record the announcement that we distributed to you earlier about the visit of the --

Q One more question on that. Will it be beamed in here?

Q John, Schlesinger talked about Administration consideration -- speculation or discussions on the question of U. S. military assistance to China. What can you tell us about that, please?

A Bernie, I do not intend to comment on internal discussions within the U. S. Government on this subject. I can say that, as we have said previously, there have been no approaches by the People's Republic to the U. S. Government to request military equipment.

Q Have we approached them?

A I would just rather stay with what I have said on that.

Q John, have we not sold them in the past goods like helicopters that are quasi-military?

A Lars, our sales of high-technology items are governed by export licensing arrangements within the U. S. Government and through the COCOM procedures. I would have to check to see whether we have sold any helicopters. I am not aware that we have.

Q John, do you have any statement on the removal by the Secretary from the White House of files -- private files?

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A Yes, Henry. I would like to make two or three points on that. You are asking a question in reference to the article by Mr. Safire this morning?

Q Right.

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A First, all memoranda of conversation or other diplomatic exchanges in which Secretary Kissinger was involved as Assistant to the President are now, and have always been, in the White House files. There are no other memoranda of conversation or diplomatic exchanges.

Secondly, this applies as well, of course, to memoranda of conversation with the Soviets. Specifically, copies of all memoranda of conversation with Ambassador Dobrynin --

Q Can you go back a little? I have Monday writer's cramp. Specifically -- ?

A Specifically, copies of all memoranda of conversation with Ambassador Dobrynin or other senior Soviet officials were sent to the President before being put into the White House files. There are no other notes or documents on exchanges with the Soviets or, indeed, any other diplomatic exchanges with other governments.

Q John, a question. That doesn't entirely address the issue of the distribution of these things. The MEMCONS were kept, according to the statement, in the White House files, and were shown to the President.

B-2

Was there any limited distribution of relevant discussions with Soviet officials -- for example, to the intelligence community?

A I am not going to be able to go beyond --

Q Or to other -- or to statutory members of the National Security Council?

A -- I am not able to go beyond what --

Q -- which will include the Secretary of Defense.

A I am not able to go beyond what I stated on this subject.

Q Could you take that question?

A I can take the question.

Q Was that statement cleared by the Secretary?

A Yes, sir.

Q Excuse me, could I add to that: including also the Secretary of State before September 1973?

A Noted.

Q Does your reference to MEMCONS and documents also cover tape recordings?

A I am really not able to go beyond what I said.

Q John, do you have anything on the nature